



IAOS NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2017

END OF THE YEAR AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In this newsletter you will find a review of the progress over the last months of some of the important activities and projects that IAOS is currently organising, as well as some news about future events.



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1. President's message

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to take a moment to wish you all the best for the holiday season.

We have been through a lot of work during this year. As you will see in the following pages, the organization of IAOS main activities for 2018 is well set in place and it looks like we are getting the initial promotion of these activities and the interest of people to participate in them at a good pace.

The call for papers for the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with OECD, and the event's website are now open for submissions and registrations. We have received confirmation that Branko Milanovic (leading scholar on income inequality and professor at the City University of New York) and Eduardo Sojo (President 2008-2015 of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico) will participate as keynote speakers of the Conference.

Several activities have been conducted during the year to promote the 2018 Conference and the two competitions that IAOS is organizing to encourage students and young statisticians to take an active interest in official statistics: the -for the first time launched along with OECD- "Young Scholars for Better Statistics" award (YSBS), and the well-known "Young Statisticians Prize" (YSP). I want to thank all who have helped us to promote these activities.

We are not done yet. Continue to expect great things from IAOS for the coming years! News have come that through the efforts of our President-Elect 2017-19, John Pullinger, the Central Statistics Office in Zambia has agreed to host the 17th IAOS International Conference in 2020. Moreover, a special issue on Administrative Data is expected to be published by the SJIAOS in 2018, the Editorial Board of the Journal has recently launched a call for papers on this topic for a special issue we hope you all will enjoy.

In our next EXCO meeting -to be held on March 2018- these and other subjects will be addressed to coordinate their successful organization.

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A prosperous IAOS is dependent on an active membership. The annual membership will be soon open for renewal and I hope to see all present members as members for 2018. I also hope that many new members will join IAOS in the next year and I will kindly ask all present members to be ambassadors for IAOS and encourage colleagues and friends to join us and participate in our activities.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Mario Palma
President 2017-19

2. 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with OECD – Call for papers

The call for papers for the 16th IAOS Conference jointly organised with OECD is open! The Scientific Programme Committee of the 2018 Conference has selected the five themes below for the IAOS – OECD Conference “Better Statistics for Better Lives”, to be held at the OECD Headquarters in Paris, September 19 – 21, 2018. Under each of these themes, three sessions will be organised which can each accommodate three papers. You are invited to submit proposals for papers for these themes:

1. Sustainability;
2. Well-being and Quality of Life;
3. The Future Role of Official Statistics;
4. Communication and Statistical Literacy;
5. Digitalisation and Globalisation.

We encourage all IAOS members to participate in the conference. There are many ways to get involved:

- Submitting a paper for a panel;
- Promoting the conference (email contact IAOS@gmail.com for fliers);
- Supporting and mentoring colleagues to prepare papers;
- Encouraging others to attend - as well as attending yourself.

With your contribution, this event will be highly successful for both the IAOS and the OECD, delivering "Better Statistics for Better Lives".

For more information about the 16th IAOS Conference, the call for papers and registration, please visit the [conference website](#).

3. Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award

For the first time, IAOS along with the OECD invite graduate students and their academic advisors to participate in their “Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award”. This award for the best paper using official statistics seeks to recognise the academic work from students and to encourage young statisticians to take an active interest in official statistics.

Invitations to participate have been sent to more than 760 leading academic departments and institutions around the world, and we would like to reach more. We encourage all our members and supporters to share the information about this award in their countries.

The winning papers must contribute to better understanding official statistics, as well as their usefulness and challenges, proposing potential options to improve their production in a particular subject or field of analysis.

The first-place winner will receive a monetary prize, as well as travel funds for him and his academic advisor to present their paper at the 2018 IAOS-OECD Conference in Paris, France on 19-21 September 2018.

Paper must be submitted by **30 March 2018**. For further information about this award, visit the [conference website](#).

4. Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) 2018 - Deadline extended to February 15, 2018!

Are you interested in winning a trip to Paris in September 2018? Will you be under the age of 35 by December 31, 2017? Do you work for an official statistical agency? The International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) is sponsoring a competition for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. In addition to the monetary prize, the first-place winner will receive travel funds to present the winning paper at a session during the [IAOS conference in Paris, France](#), September 19-21, 2018.

Submitters are encouraged to address and propose solutions to pressing methodological or strategic issues in official statistics at the regional, national, or international level.

Winning entries in previous years have spanned the United Kingdom, Bolivia, New Zealand, Australia, Germany and UNESCO. This year could be your countries' turn.

Papers must be submitted by **February 15, 2018**. [Details and submission instructions](#) are available on the IAOS website.

5. Statistical Journal of the IAOS – Latest and future issues

The September 2017 issue

The September issue of the SJIAOS had as its theme 'Urban, Regional and Small Area Statistics.' Associate editor, Asta Manninen was the guest editor. She compiled the issue in collaboration with Teodora Brandmuller and Klaus Trutzel on behalf of the Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS). The issue covered additional themes, including a continuation from the June issue (Counting the Youngest Among Us) on Leaving No One Behind.

The December 2017 issue

This issue of the SJIAOS focuses on the Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Statistics in Developing Countries. The manuscripts were first presented at the IAOS 2016 Conference in an invited session organized by Stephen Penneck (IAOS President 2011-2013). It also includes papers discussing the role of official statistics in fragile countries, regions and sectors of the economy; a special report on Haiti prepared by a Statistics Without Borders volunteer, and the winning paper of the 2016 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize (YSP): 'Balancing Input-Output Tables with Bayesian Slave-Raiding Ants,' by Rolando Gonzales Martinez (Bolivia).

Future issues

The SJIAOS has published various manuscripts on the UN Fundamental Principle of Statistics and it is hoped to continue to do so. We invite you to submit your manuscripts on the many aspects of this topic, including the role of official statisticians in discharging their duties as data stewards.

Another international topic of interest to official statistics is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the associated capacity building required to measure and monitor them. Several manuscripts in December related to the SDGs, and we would like to publish more. Plans for the future include an issue on administrative data.

Please go to the recently posted [Call for Papers announcement](#) for more details. SJIAOS is looking forward to your response to this call and to receiving other contributions from you in 2018.

Kirsten West, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, SJIAOS

6. 17th IAOS Conference – Some news

Our President-Elect 2017-19, John Pullinger (National Statistician for the United Kingdom, Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority) is pleased to announce that Mr. John Kalumbi, Director General of the Central Statistics Office in Zambia has agreed to host the 17th IAOS International Conference in Lusaka in 2020. Further details will be announced as plans progress. Our congratulations and thanks to John, his team, and Oliver J.M. Chinganya (Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – UNECA) for their good offices in procuring the venue for the 2020 conference.

7. Next EXCO Meeting

The next EXCO meeting will be held on 5 March 2018 in New York, prior to the 49th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) that will take place from 6-9 March 2018.

Please contact us at ContactIAOS@gmail.com if you have any items for discussion.

8. Key dates for members

- Closing date for 2018 YSP: **15 February 2018**
- IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference - Closing date of Call for Papers: **28 February 2018.**
- Closing date for 2018 Young Scholars for Better Statistics award: **30 March 2018**
- United Nations Statistical Commission: **6 -9 March 2018.**
- Closing of Early bird registration for IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference: **29 June 2018**
- Closing of Regular registration for IAOS- OECD 2018 Conference: **14 September 2018**
- IAOS-OECD 2018 Conference (Paris, France): **19-21 September 2018**
- [62nd ISI 2019 World Statistics Congress](#) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia): **19-23 August 2019**

9. Support and Promotional Activities

IAOS Executive members have been busy supporting and promoting IAOS and Official Statistics. Activities include:

- IAOS, ISI and Statisticians Without Borders (SwB) have been working with Caricom to identify how the International Statistical Community can support the statistical offices in Caribbean countries to recover from the series of devastating Hurricanes that hit them in previous months. Nancy McBeth (Special Advisor to IAOS) has taken an active role in promoting this international cooperation effort.
- Actions to spread IAOS's mission and activities in other regions have been conducted by some of our colleagues. Dr. Hasnae Fdhil has been instrumental in the promotion of our Association and the advertising of our activities in the Arab region, south Mediterranean countries and Africa. Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin has advocated for the development statistical literacy in Malaysia through his work in the Department of Statistics (DOSM).

10. Closing comments

Members have received updates on key IAOS activities through email newsletters, IAOS website updates and of course through the ISI monthly news to all ISI family members. We encourage all members and supporters to participate in these activities and promote them in their institutions and with their colleagues.

We welcome short items of interest to members of the IAOS, official statisticians, providers and users of official statistics for publication in this newsletter and/or on the IAOS website. Please send your contributions to contactIAOS@gmail.com.

Finally I really welcome any feedback and suggestions that you may have on matters relating to Official Statistics and the work of the IAOS in particular. Please feel free to contact me about any issues related to the IAOS, or official statistics in general.

Thank you again for your support.

Mario Palma
IAOS President, 2017-19

Contact us

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